

Application Serial No: 10/730,341  
In reply to Office Action of 14 December 2006

Attorney Docket No. 82999

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Claims 1-10 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-5 are rejected. Claims 6-10 are objected to. No claims are allowed. Claims 1-5 have been canceled by this response. Claims 6-8 have been amended by this response. Claims 11-12 have been added by this response.

At the outset, Applicants are pleased to note that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 6-10 to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims

In response to Examiner's rejection of claims 1-5, Applicants have canceled the rejected claims.

In response to Examiner's objection of claims 6-10, Applicants have amended claim 6 such that claim 6 is now in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim 1 and intervening claims 2 and 4 in strict compliance with the requirements of the Examiner. Having done this, Applicants have amended claim 7 and claim 8 to depend upon claim 6. Applicants have added dependant claims 11 and 12, which depend upon amended claim 6 and which contain the subject matter and limitations of canceled claims 3 and 5.

Applicants respectfully suggest that, in light of the amendment to claim 6, claim 6 should now be allowed. Applicants also suggest that claims 7-12 are now also allowable through

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dependency upon claim 6.

Applicant respectfully suggests in view of the above amendments and remarks that all grounds for rejection and objection have been removed by the foregoing response to Examiner's Office Action. Applicants state that no new matter has been added by this amendment, and that all of the remaining claims in the application are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are therefore earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone Jean-Paul A. Nasser, Attorney for Applicants, at 401-832-4736 if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a telephone call would serve to expedite the prosecution of the subject patent application.

Respectfully submitted,  
RICHARD M. EAD, ET AL.

13 March 2007

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